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Efforts focused on decreasing the impact

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) district health unit press conference with medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking, held virtually on Jan. 5.

Dr. Natalie Bocking spoke to the frustration that she knows people are feeling due to being in the third year of the pandemic, facing further public health measures and restrictions as a result of the spread of the Omicron variant and the fifth wave.

"At this point in time we are not looking to stop COVID-19 transmission," Bocking said. "At this point in time we are looking to mitigate or decrease the impact on our acute care system. Our hospitals have already had to move to looking at cancelling non-elective procedures. What's different about this wave of the pandemic compared to previous, is the number of absences of health care workers at our hospitals that is happening at the same time as a higher number of admissions which creates even further strain on the system so I think certainly in terms of short-term measures that we can do to try and keep our health-care system safe and able to respond, those are measures that we need to take and [are] time-limited to get us

see HKPR page 2



Savouring the skate

Sean Ruppel of Bracebridge is backlit, as he stickhandles a puck while skating across a frozen Kashagawigamog Lake during an afternoon of outdoor fun in Haliburton County. Ruppel was visiting a friend and is familiar with the area, having organized and held the Crank the Shield event here. The ice conditions were ideal for skating: devoid of snow, smooth and hard./DARREN LUM Staff

Return to modified Stage Two affecting business community

CHRIS DROST

Staff Reporter

With the recent move by the Province of Ontario to return to a modified Stage Two in its ongoing efforts to protect the hospital system, business owners in Haliburton County are feeling the impact. *The Haliburton Echo* reached out to a selection of businesses to learn how they are coping with the recent announcement.

"We had sort of made the decision in the fall not to open up indoor dining this winter, other than some Christmas parties that had already been booked," says Ryan Yates, who is transitioning to ownership of the Bonnie View Inn, while long-time owner Andrea Hagarty assists.

Last year they had geared up for winter dining and ended up with a freezer and fridges full of food and staff expecting to work. Not wanting to repeat that, they made the decision not to open the dining room this winter. "People who come here want to eat and not go offsite. This has impacted bookings but people are more understanding. It has definitely been tough. The new closures don't impact much except the dining and use of things such as the lounge and hang-out areas," says Yates.

"We have lots of stuff do outside. We just need a bit more snow," he adds.

The biggest thing through the opening and closing is the lack of advance notice. "The hardest thing has been staff. Some had to go on EI. We always had that as a

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HKPR: Five day isolation applies to entire household

through. As an individual or community member the most important thing you can be doing right now is following those basic public health measures."

She acknowledged that it might feel like deja vu, referencing the movie Groundhog

There are certainly technical lessons learned about how we manage COVID-19, some of that changes based on the variant. But I do think a lot of it, our biggest lessons learned, are more kind of social, in that the best way we get through these waves is through kindness and compassion and empathy and that when we have done that the waves pass faster and we come out healthier on the other side."

Changes to testing, outbreak reporting

As of the Jan. 5 media briefing, 4,288 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the region since the beginning of the pandemic, and 1,013 cases were currently being recorded as active: 74 in Haliburton County, 381 in City of Kawartha Lakes and 550 in Northumberland County.

These numbers reflect infections in individuals that have been reported to public health through lab-positive confirmed

Bocking said that given changes in provincial criteria to access PCR testing – which has been reduced to those who work or live in high-risk settings or have high-risk medical conditions due to capacity in both local assessment centres throughout the province as well as at regional and central laboratories - the numbers being reported of confirmed cases are an underestimate of the actual cases in the community

"We know that there are many individuals right now that might have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or that may have tested positive with a rapid antigen test and are presumed to have COVID-19 infection and these individuals are not reflected in the numbers that are on our dashboard," she said. "That being said, I think the dashboard which includes the numbers of confirmed PCR tests still is den. Knowing that it's an underestimate, these are still really large numbers that we're seeing.

Bocking said the HKPRD's seven-day rolling incidence rate at that point was the highest it has ever been throughout the pandemic, at 509 cases per 100,000 population over the last week. Sixteen outbreaks had been reported throughout the region: eight of those outbreaks in long-term care homes or retirement homes, two of those outbreaks in correctional institutions and four in other group home settings or congregate care settings.

'We are not declaring general community outbreaks or other community location outbreaks but will continue to declare outbreaks in higher risk settings which includes different congregate care settings such as retirement homes or group homes," Bocking said.

The region's test positivity was also the highest it's been in the pandemic, though still just below or around the provincial average

"So calculated today but reflective of about a week ago, our test positivity is at 18 per cent," Bocking said. "There are some health unit jurisdictions seeing test positivity of 30 per cent or higher so I think the numbers we're seeing across all of these indicators are consistent with what's being seen across the province."

Omicron spread indicated in past 14 days

Bocking said reports over the past two weeks reflected a period of time with a significant change in epidemiology as Omicron provincially became the dominant variant. In the past 14 days, she said nine people had been admitted to hospital, a significant increase over the past while in which few hospitalizations had been reported. At the time of the briefing, four people were currently admitted to intensive care units.

'Among those people that have had severe enough COVID-19 illness and admitted to hospital as a result of that just to give you a sense because it's often a hot topic and people ask - of those nine, one of those individuals was not vaccireceived two doses of vaccine," Bocking said. "We know that two doses of COVID-19 vaccine is, while still providing some protection against severe illness, does not provide the same level of protection as it did for the Delta variant hence ... the push and the emphasis on booster doses.

Four of those requiring hospital admission are between the ages of 70 and 89, said Bocking, noting almost half of the hospital admissions are among the older age population. Two were among 50- to 69-year-olds and two were among 30-to-49-year-olds.

In the past 14 days, still the predominant age groups have been younger adults, 20 to 29 and 30 to 39. "Although we certainly are seeing more among older age cohorts as well," Bocking said.

Those testing positive asked to tell close contacts

For the average community case, Bocking said the health unit is now not doing case management and contact tracing. The health unit's focus is on high-risk settings and outbreaks.

"I think across the province there's no health unit that has the capacity to do the case management and contact tracing for us, we're receiving more than 100 new cases per day," she said.

Bocking said that for individuals that don't have access to PCR testing, but who might test positive through a Rapid Antigen Test, there is no requirement to report that to public health and there's no mechanism to do that.

"So if you're an average community person, you don't work at a hospital or a long-term care home and you are fully vaccinated and do not have another medical condition that is interfering with your immune response and you have symptoms consistent with COVID, or you test positive on a rapid antigen test, the direction is to isolate at home for five days. And not just you isolating at home, but everyone in your household is also required to isolate at home with you regardless of their vaccination status. That's different than what it was about a month ago. If that person is not vaccinated or they requirement is to isolate for a full 10 days.'

For those who test positive or suspect they have COVID-19, Bocking said it's the 'collective community ask, since public health units are no longer doing this, for them to reach out to anyone that they have been in close contact with in the 48-hours prior to when their symptoms started, and let them know, 'now I'm sick and you should be watching for symptoms as

High-risk contacts that don't live with the individual don't need to isolate at home but are asked to self-monitor and really look for signs or symptoms. Bocking said, "the guidance around this is continuing to evolve," and resources on the HKPRD health unit website are up to

Getting a boost

The health unit is looking to add information about booster shot statistics to its dashboard information online.

At the time of the media briefing, Bocking said throughout the HKPRD region, 66 per cent of those 70 or older had received their booster shot, while just about 50 per cent of those aged 50 and older had received their booster shot, and 37.5 per cent of those 18 and older had received their booster dose.

Vaccination in 5- to 11-year-olds

Within the HKPRD region, 39 per cent of kids aged five to 11 had received one dose of their vaccine.

"It's about average for health units across the province," said Bocking. "I think that number is certainly much lower than where we would like it to be. We know that vaccination among this age group will significantly help to reduce broader community transmission and help overall to both, prevent illness among that age group and to help bring the broader transmission of COVID-19 in the community under con-

Between now and Feb. 4, Bocking said there were 8,900 appointments open for the 5 to 11 age group.

Provincial action that includes restricting business isn't an answer

from page 1

seasonal business, but more so now," says

Bonnie View Inn has been able to take advantage of some of the government supports but according to Yates, the one disappointing thing is that because they are an accommodator, they are deemed "essential." "Technically we can be open so we couldn't get all the support. Last year while we were allowed to be open during the 'stay in place' order, we had no business. We are only eligible on the restaurant side," he says.

This time, Yates hopes they can collect something while the restaurant is closed. The wage subsidies have really helped and have been a huge support. "It is tough to navigate but all you can do is the best you can.

Last year 90 per cent of their accommodation business was domestic. The hope is that the international market will eventually return. "For us, it has not been all doom and gloom. Summer and fall were great," he says.

With the temporary closing of fitness operations, owner of Just Movement Fitness in Minden Meghan Cox has some strong objections. "Continuing to

take harmful measures that do not, and have not worked for almost two years is not only detrimental to businesses and humanity, but the definition of insanity. Especially when the 'rules' do not make sense and only seem to target a few select sectors where there is no evidence to support closing," Cox says.

Cox says that for her business in particular as a health facility where people come to be healthy, health matters for combatting and reducing all illnesses, including heart disease, diabetes, mental illness, COVID-19 and more. "Why is the government and health officials not taking about this? Promoting and encouraging health and things that support wellness like exercise, proper nutrition, reducing junk food, stress reduction techniques, healthy sleep cycles etc.," she says.

Cox also asks why they have to be completely closed and not able to operate in a modified capacity.

"I haven't recovered from the first closure let alone the second, third etc. Many of my colleagues have completely closed their businesses due to lockdowns. We can't survive continuous closures. It's not feasible," she says.

Cox has not received any financial help from the government. "A financial loan

is not helpful for small businesses. Who pays the loan back when the business is closed or goes under due to mandates and closures? They make it sound like there is help available but many small businesses do not qualify or it is a loan which is to be paid back," she says.

Looking forward, Cox says she has had small number of clients who have been able to pivot to online training with her when she is closed, but not everyone can or will use the online platform and it's not enough to meet all the overhead expenses of owning a business and keeping certifications up to date, let alone her own personal expenses.

"The reality of it is that if they don't find other options for combatting COVID-19, many small businesses will close indefinitely," Cox says.

Over at Sir Sam's Ski and Ride, general manager Randy Pielsticker is grateful that so far this year has been better than last. "Compared to last year, this year is awesome," he says. They are typically open 80 days of the year and last year were only open 35 days. Between Dec. 18 and Jan. 3, they were only closed on Christmas Day, as planned, so they were open for the entire Christmas break.

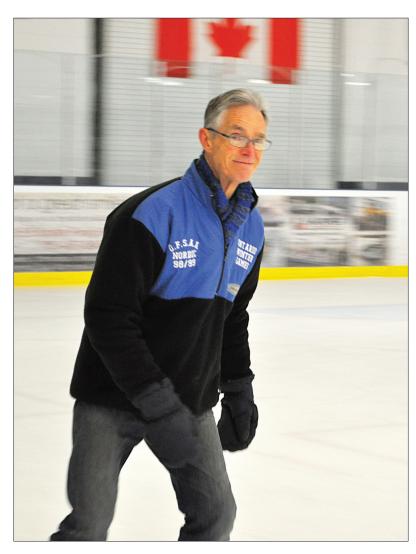
Beyond COVID-19, staff shortages have

been an issue, along with staff isolations. Generally, some years they have lots of snow and they are able to open over the entire holiday, but sometimes two or three days of rain can shut them down.

With the new regulations it means guests have to stay outside. "We have adapted by making more firepits and adding outdoor heaters. Food is offered outside by take-out and on the weekends, we run outdoor barbecues," says Pielsticker. They have established a limit on hill capacity to ensure social distancing is maintained. "Outdoor capacity is running at 50 per cent compared to a non-COVID-19 year," he says. This has affected revenue.

Last year Sir Sam's took advantage of the wage subsidy program. This year, they have recently changed ownership so they are dealing with those changes at the moment.

"We have benefited most from the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce supplying us with rapid tests," says Pielsticker. It has made it possible to test staff regularly, and when someone tests positive, to test their co-workers. "We have still lost some staff to isolation but having testing available in the workplace has been invaluable," he adds.



Jim Andrews gives a smile as he skates at the AJ LaRue Arena. Free skate time was available for free between Dec. 25 and Dec. 31. /NICK BERNARD



Rama Wiso smiles through the glass as she takes a break during the public skate at AJ LaRue arena on Dec. 31. The rink time was free all week until Dec. 31. Few knew the holiday skate was going to be included as one of the last public skating opportunities before the province's decision to move to the modified version of Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen.



Emerson Pearen, left, and Tyler Waschka, right, do laps around the rink.

No shot at Canadian National Pond Hockey this year

The Canadian National Pond Hockey Championships is cancelled for 2022.

The multi-day outdoor hockey tournament was hoping to return to action after a two-year pause caused by the pandemic. This year it was scheduled to be held over the Jan. 28/29 weekend and the Feb. 4/5 weekend on the 14-acre pond in front of the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre in Haliburton.

However the province's decision to return to the modified version of Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen on Jan. 5 has ended any hope for an event that was expecting 100 teams and several hundred players.

It's left business people and event operators such as

John Teljeur, who runs the hockey tournament disap-

pointed.

"We are sad and disappointed to officially cancel the 2022 Canadian National Pond Hockey Championships. We looked at various options and held on as long as we could hoping things would stabilize but the current COVID restrictions would make it nearly impossible to safely, responsibly and effectively run the event at Pinestone as we have in the past. We will be in contact with all registered teams regarding registration fee options and room reservations as soon as we can. Pinestone is already working on cancelling booked rooms for the event. To all of our players, volunteers and supporters,

keep the faith and stay safe - we will be back."

The Roadmap to Reopen, which has included a move to online learning for students, a reduction of indoor gatherings to five people and outdoor gatherings to 10 people, closing indoor dining at restaurants, requiring businesses and organizations to ensure employees work remotely unless the nature of their work requires them to be onsite, and limiting capacity at indoor weddings, funerals and religious services, is expected to last 21 days (until Jan.26). It is subject to change depending on trends in public health and health system indicators.

Staff

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Long-term solutions needed for long-term care: advocate

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

New measures by the province to protect long-term care residents from COVID-19 seem necessary, but more work needs to be done to improve their quality of life long-term, said a local advocate.

The Ontario government announced on Dec. 28 that it would once again ban general visitors to long-term care facilities and halt resident day trips that are for social purposes. The rules are to protect the elderly from a devastating fifth wave of the pandemic, which has shattered records for daily numbers of new cases and has health

care workers bracing for an influx of hospitalizations.

"It's kind of a double whammy," said Bonnie Roe, a lead member of the Haliburton-City of Kawartha Lakes Long-Term Care Coalition, which is advocating for higher standards of care. "We realize we have to keep our most vulnerable residents safe and that's important. But it seems diametrically opposed to what's happening in the rest of the province.

She was referencing the fact that not all of Ontario is in shut down and other people are, generally, still free to attend big events. Sports teams, for example, were at the time of the announcement still able to host up to 1,000 fans in large stadiums. "It just doesn't seem equitable to me; it doesn't seem fair ... We want them to be safe, but surely there's a better way to do it."

Roe, a retired registered nurse who once worked at Hyland Crest, said that the social isolation long-term care residents face poses a serious health problem, too. She was pleased that the provincial announcement menlong-term care homes," meaning that some residents may have at least one loved one they'll see frequently, but still more work needs to be done.

'It's a step in the right direction. I'll give (Minister of Long-Term Care) Rod Phillips credit for that, but that's

Roe argued that homes are severely understaffed and many homes are private businesses, which means, if the wrong managers are in place, they can be driven more by profit than quality of care.

The coalition she's involved with was born as a result of the scathing military report given to Ontario Premier Doug Ford in the spring of 2020, which revealed that the worst COVID-outbreaks in Ontario long-term care homes were a result of mismanagement and neglect. It was also in response to the tragedy at nearby Pinecrest Nursing Home in Bobcaygeon, where nearly half of the 65 residents died of COVID in a short time frame.

Roe hopes the government will consider hiring more staff, hold more random inspections to ensure homes are up to code and bring in new standards that are designed to eliminate the feeling of residents being institutional-

"This is a key opportunity; the government can do things differently; look at how they can make a longterm care home more like a home and less like something used for profit."

Meanwhile, the new restrictions and the reality of the fifth wave has led staff at the two Haliburton Highlands Health Services homes to spring into action. HHHS is the body that oversees Hyland Crest, a 62-bed home in Minden, and Highland Wood, a 30-bed home in Haliburton.

In an email, HHHS president and CEO Carolyn Plummer said the organization's COVID-19 steering committee is meeting more frequently to make sure it's understanding the new measures and taking every necessary step to keep residents safe, such as implementing screening measures, ensuring proper personal protection equipment is used and putting physical distancing markers in place. It's also hosting booster vaccine clinics for staff and essential caregivers. She also addressed the fact that finding ways to keep morale up is important, too.

Our incredible staff team is acutely aware of the physical and emotional impact of this current wave of COVID-19 on residents, patients, family members, and each other. Together, we continue to look for new and innovative ways to boost morale and support one another, including by ensuring families can conduct virtual visits with their loved ones in long-term care, providing mental health supports to residents and to our staff, and through safe activities."

Plummer also explained that the public can support residents and staff in long-term care homes by doing their part to reduce the spread of COVID.

"The most important way the community can support residents, patients, and staff at HHHS is by following public health measures. This includes wearing masks, physical distancing, reducing the number of contacts they have, being immunized for COVID-19 (first, second, and booster doses), and being diligent about hand washing. The resilience, perseverance, and never-ending compassion of the HHHS staff team is nothing short of inspirational, but what they need most of all is for our community to do everything it can to stay healthy and safe."

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BIA prize sets Barry on Nordic track

Algonquin Outfitters employee Sarah Veenhof, from left, helps Kathy Barry pick out some new crosscountry skis after she learned she had won \$1,500 in gift cards to participating BIA businesses for participating in the Buy In And Win giveaway on Jan. 3 at the Haliburton outdoors store. Barry is splitting her winnings between Algonquin Outfitters, Haliburton Foodland, Rexall Pharmacy, and Halco Electronics - The Source./NICK BERNARD Staff



OPP need public's help with safer community

DARREN LUM

Editor

There's a well-known idiom that goes 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

This was the main point by Haliburton Highlands OPP interim detachment commander Dan Collings when asked by the Municipality of Dysart et al council about vandalism and theft in Haliburton at a committee of the whole meeting held in early December.

The meeting streamed on via YouTube and included a presentation of police occurrences listed in a situational

report for Head Lake Park this year.

It's all about alerting police about what's happening at

the park, Collings said.

"There's a recommendation for the public and for the municipality for the concerns they're having in the park is one, [to] encourage people to contact the OPP when they see something happening," he said.

There were 16 occurrences for 2021, including one

If a member of the public is a witness to an occurrence, they are encouraged to contact police, using the nonemergency number or the 9-1-1 number for emergencies.

He adds additions such as improved lighting, municipal employee patrols by bylaw officers, added signage and surveillance, whether with photo camera or video

Collings said the incidents at the park did not just happen at one time of day.

He also stressed implementing actions related to "environmental design" can go a long way to preventing the

type of occurrences listed in his report.

"Where there's habitual, say mischief, happening, if there's places where people can't readily hide," he said.

He said those areas need to physically change. He remembers how a bush with close to the ground coverage was being used for nefarious actions. When it had its lower limbs cut, the area hidden from view was reduced, which ended the activities.

As far as the theft of three catalytic converters from the businesses in Industrial Park area earlier this year, he said those could be avoided in the future with changing the current environmental design of those areas and "target hardening," which is related to adding physical modifications to deter thieves. One of the thefts was from an insecure building and another was an insecure vehicle.

"So things that the businesses can do is ramp up their own security ensuring that they lock everything up properly, ensuring that they don't leave things lying around or left outside in an insecure property. Things like better lighting, and surveillance cameras also provide a deterrent to criminal activity," he said.

In addition to the suggestions, he said, there was an increase of OPP patrols.

Later in the meeting, a question about whether using gates to private residences and properties could help with crime prevention. Collings agreed with the suggestion and said anything to make it appear more difficult to

There's a recommendation for the public and for the municipality for the concerns they're having in the park is one, [to] encourage people to contact the OPP when they see something happening.

> - Dan Collings, Haliburton Highlands OPP interim detachment commander

a person looking to commit crime can help.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said during one walk in Head Lake Park earlier in the year she spoke to one group who were ready to engage in illicit activities. Without telling them she was the mayor, she suggested they leave the park.

"They moved on, which was good, but it's just the brazen nature that a group of people would sit down and [do] whatever it was [they were doing] in the middle of the afternoon. It wasn't in a dark alley. It wasn't at nighttime. It wasn't in some cedar bushes. I'm just really shocked at some of the behaviour that I've certainly seen

in and around," she said.

Roberts added there could be a solution to the type of behaviour with the Haliburton County's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. The plan's goal as stated on the county website "is to achieve sustainable communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate, and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression.

The township recognizes the issues outlined by Collings, agreeing with some of the suggestions he presented.

"We are working on the camera installations throughout the park, So, there's Rotary Park, the library, Rails End [Gallery], and the Welcome Centre and now getting coverage where they haven't before. So, hopefully that will help," CAO Tamara Wilbee said. "In terms of environmental design, I totally agree too. We need to look at the back of the library and places like that."

She adds there will be an effort towards changing the environment at the park to deter criminal activity, which means opening things up and ensuring lighting in the park is adequate. Wilbee acknowledged areas that are hidden from plain view are also a cause for concern, which has led to the destruction and vandalism of public property such as the building by the playground equipment on the Rotary Beach side of Head Lake Park.

"So as part of our grant we got last year we're resid-

ing that building and we're taking all the alcoves out and so we're trying to keep those kinds of things in mind to remove those hiding spots and things as we go, but I definitely agree there is a lot of work that has to be done still," she said.

Wilbee said in her time with the township there have been past occurrences that have come in waves where there is activity for a period and then nothing for a cou-

Weeks after the online meeting with Collings, Wilbee said there hasn't been anything "concrete" to come from the presentation "that we weren't already planning" other than look into signage to remind the public to notify police since the meeting.

Walking at night in the park on the Rotary Beach side has been a dark experience at times this winter.
Wilbee said the lights are solar powered and are near-

ing the end of their life cycle.

We've been trying to sort it out for a bit. We thought they were all dead a few weeks back because they had shut off by the morning but I think it's just that they are coming to the end of their life and aren't storing as much power to keep the lights on long enough. They are going to need full replacement at some point. Those were installed with a grant a few years back. Letting us know when they aren't working in the early evening is helpful though as we don't staff at that hour to monitor easily,' she wrote in an email message.

THINKING OF SELLING YOUR HOME OR COTTAGE?

BUYERS ARE EAGERLY WAITING TO PURCHASE A PIECE OF PARADISE IN HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS



Folk Society thankful to Canoe FM

Just recently Canoe FM donated \$5,000 from the proceeds of their very successful Tuesday night Radio Bingo program to the Haliburton County Folk Society.

This donation helps support all of the concerts, open stages and other initiatives that we have provided this past year and will continue to provide in the future once we get beyond the pandemic. We have been able to provide several concerts and keep our monthly Open Stage event going up until now while at the same time meeting all requirements for COVID protocols. In some months we have only been able to provide live-streaming of our

In addition, one of our new committee members, Tom Oliver, has been able to establish a very successful instrument exchange program to provide free used instruments, mostly guitars, to budding musicians who are not able to afford to buy them. Oliver has also been able to establish a program to provide free guitar lessons to beginning musicians, which has also been very successful and will continue once we are able to.

As you might expect, with our usual audience capacity at the Open Stages restricted to 50 per cent we have not been able to generate the typical revenue that we might receive at our concerts. Thus the donation from Canoe FM has been a wonderful gift to help us to try to keep

some live music going in the Highlands during this pandemic and will allow us to keep doing so when we are

This is the second donation that Canoe FM has made to support the Folk Society. Thank you to Canoe FM and all of its volunteers for their generous support.

Submitted by Walter Tose, chairman of the Haliburton County Folk Society





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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Harness the power of belief for a better future

THE NEW YEAR brings optimism. I have a dream when there will be better days ahead. It's a fitting sentiment for this time in our lives with so much

uncertainty. Art Ward, a Rotarian with wellknown determination and commitment as a hotel operator, died last month, but will not be forgot-

His legacy is rooted in how much he gave to Haliburton. Central to that was his belief in peo-

ple and this community. Ward was from Amprior where he was born and raised before going to university in Toronto. The transplant though could easily pass for any of the deeply-rooted founders of modern Haliburton for his commitment and dedication to making this place the best it can be and letting eve-

ryone know it. He embodied the Rotary motto of 'Service Above

Last year, I was working through a difficult transition in my life.

It wasn't easy, but I believed in a future that included Haliburton. Here I am. Still standing. I'm not only feeling better in life and in work with my promotion, but I have renewed purpose. I'm an integral part of a legacy that was started by the Echo in 1884. There are dozens of award plaques on the wall and a basement of archived newspapers, as evidence of the paper's long-standing excellence and the service and commitment to the community.

We are all in a difficult and challenging place right now.

Some more than others with the recent provincial decision to return to a modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen, which is time-limited measure supposed to "preserve hospital capacity as the province continues to accelerate booster dose roll out."

There is a segment of the population who are vaccine hesitant or concerned. There are others open to accepting the vaccine.

> Both believe what they are doing is the best course of action. The why is another thing between the groups. As I said earlier, belief is powerful. Let's remember that respect can help smooth the rails when belief and conviction collide to enable discussion for change.

Belief isn't the only thing to get us

through this. We of course need a plan, which includes a sequence of executed actions to lead to a goal. The provincial government hasn't exactly applied this logic to how they have handled the challenges related to the pandemic.

However, call me an overly optimistic fool, but I'd like to stay on the positive side of this train of thought for how life is playing

We can and we will. Let's believe in each other. Maybe, if we all do that, it can bring about the change we all yearn for in this life of uncertainty. After all what's the alternative?



darren lum

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Beauty in the details

by Darren Lum

Just when you think

TIM HAD forgotten how cold it could be. But it didn't take long to be reminded. As he walked along the snow packed road, he couldn't help but marvel at the dawn-pink sky and crystal air biting his nose. Herb the German shepherd loved these walks no matter the weather. Always on the lookout for deer, he stepped out with a bounce, frosty whiskers not withstanding.

There was a faint hum of traffic in the distance, made all the more noticeable in the cold, clear air. Iim preferred the silence of a fresh snowfall when the world felt at peace, however briefly. Sometimes he saw others out walking at this hour but today there was only he and Herb and the birds. He saw them already

flitting around the feeders, the chickadees and nuthatches. And the unmistakable calls of blue jays, those beautifully coloured and often reviled corvids, echoed between the pine and spruce.

It was amazing to him that the birds were able to survive in these temperatures. They had no fur, no downy boots but still went about their constant quest for food.

Later, after removing layers of clothing

and pouring Herb's breakfast into his dish, Jim sat down with that wonderful first cup of coffee and watched the backyard. There was always something to see out there and the morning light through the trees was all the more special because it was fleeting.

Years ago Jim had put a birdhouse n top of the clothesline post. There it sat this morning, with a cap of snow and a grey and weathered exterior. It had been an impulsive move putting it there, 15-feet off the ground. He had never seen any activity around it and every spring thought about taking it down but hadn't.

But now he saw two chickadees fluttering and swooping around it. One bird went in the front opening and it appeared a second one had just emerged from the back. Jim won-

dered if there was a nest there after all. No eggs of course, not this time of year, but there would be shelter. Now he was curious. Was there a little family living in the old birdhouse? Just when he thought it was a useless thing, he was pleased to find out he was wrong. Sometimes it's wonderful to learn you've been wrong in your

Sipping his coffee and looking about the yard once again, the balsam caught his eye. He remembered the day he saw it broken in half following a wind storm. At the time Jim had been disappointed to think that one of his trees was destroyed. Only it hadn't been. In fact, instead of dying, the trunk had branched into two more which now reached higher than

Jim could ever have dreamed. Just when he thought it had been hopeless.

The day stretched out before him with nothing much planned. In the past, the week between Christmas and New Year's had always been a time for visiting family and to catch up on everyone's life over the past year. This year was different and Íim was finding it a bit lonely. Herb was great but not much of a con-



sharon lynch

versationalist.

Just then the phone rang. It was his neighbour Monika, sounding as bright and cheerful as the chickadees he had been watching. They had known each other since childhood, being old frog catching and berry picking companions. She wanted to he was interested in going for a snowshoe in the nature preserve. He jumped at the chance. The day was too good to waste indoors.

Now the sun was higher in the sky. It was still cold but he would dress for it. He also knew once he started snowshoeing, he'd warm up quickly. As he headed out the door he thought it was going to be a great day and just when he thought it would be other-

points of view

The grapes of math

NTIL THINGS change a bit, whenever I tell a young whippersnapper about how good things were when I was a growing up, grapes are

going to feature prominently in the story.

The poor youngster who does not quickly blurt out an excuse to hurry off to somewhere else will hear about how plentiful grapes were in the average diet back then. I'll even regale the kid with stories of how when I was his age, we took green grapes for granted. For, in those wonderful days, they were so plentiful and inexpensive that we often threw them at each other for amusement. Mostly because potatoes were overkill.

This would prompt our dads to say, "Hey, do you think those grapes grow on trees?"

To which we would reply, "Yes."

This answer would lead to the shaking of heads and cause our fathers to concede that our report cards were probably more accurate than they cared to admit.

These days, however, things

are very different.



steve

galea

Now, I mostly window shop for grapes. Oh sure, sometimes I splurge and buy a pound or two if I experience a sudden lottery windfall. But usually, I just push my shopping cart quicker as I pass those little green darlings, so I am not tempted to sample one as was common practice in the good old days. Sampling one right now might get you hard

Yes, grapes have gotten expensive. I just did the math and

green grapes, depending on what size you call average, now cost somewhere around 10 cents a grape. And that is a sale price. This means pretty soon they might start packaging them in egg cartons.

They are getting so expensive that I honestly considered starting a cartel that smuggles them into the country. Of course, I am not going to do this since it is highly illegal. Plus, you couldn't give away smuggled grapes once people find out how they are being snuck past Cus-

Still, that's how desperate it has become.

I'm certainly not going to blame our local retailers because we all know it is far more complicated than that. Some of the blame can be attributed to the rising cost of everything associated with growing and transporting them to market. But mostly, I blame the wine drinkers – you know who you are – and the increase of consumption since the pandemic began.

Which is why I'm politely asking everyone to please stop buying wine for a year or two in order to let the price of grapes settle back down to a reasonable level. To be clear, I'm not saying don't visit the LCBO – after all it is one of the last bastions of refuge left during this pandemic. I'm just saying if there was ever a time to give up on wine and perhaps take an interest in the harder stuff, this might be it.

If we all do this together, we might drive the price of grapes down so much that you could easily afford to buy enough to make your own cellar wine. This will also give you a much-needed hobby to get you through the pandemic. If you think of it that way, it is a win-win.

The point here is grapes should not just be something you push your shopping cart past. No, they are something that every kid should have along with their lunch, so that they can enjoy them in the way that only kids can. Trust me, potatoes hurt too much.



pic of the past

ack and May Emmerson's Farm on the Old Donald Road 1934-35. Photo taken by Wilts McElwain. Óriginally submitted by Bill McElwain December 2011. If you have a pic of the past you'd like to submit, bring it to the *Echo* at 146 Highland Street or email darren@ haliburtonpress.com.

We've been here before

To the Editor,

I've been doing what many others have likely been doing during the pandemic - projects that I've been meaning to turn my attention to. One of them is working through a box of old pictures and other memorabilia that were left at our cottage when my Mom died.

In this assortment, there was a brochure put out by the Stanhope Heritage Discovery Museum (year unknown) entitled, Stanhope Heritage Driving *Tour.* The mid-section of this brochure contains a section, "Did You Know?"

And no, I did not know (and think many others would not know) that, "In 1896, Stanhope suffered a diphtheria epidemic during which schools were closed and all public gatherings including church services, were forbidden. Stanhope council passed a motion Minden pay \$60 as compensation for the stamping out of the diphtheria epidemic caused by the negligence of the Minden Board of Health in handling their own epidemic ... And in 1904, smallpox swept through the township and the same curfews were imposed."

And we think with this pandemic we are hard done by. Imagine the hardships experienced by many families 120 years ago!

> **Heather Konefat** Maple Lake

Look for health care answers beyond the continent

To the Editor,

I was very impressed this morning reading Darren Lum's editorial "What's old is new again." I think it was very well written and captures the public mood in our community.

For weeks I've been saying that we should be watching what's happening in South Africa because they are upstream from Canada, so what's happening there (vis-a-vis Omicron) is a good indicator of what might happen here in a

I also think that, as a province and country, we need to seriously evaluate how well our healthcare system has dealt with the unprecedented challenge of COVID. I don't mean an accusatory process where we point fingers, but rather, an honest and open-minded assessment of how we could improve our system's performance.

In this vein, I'd like to offer a specific suggestion: we need to look beyond Canada and the United States for comparisons and new thinking. All too often our debates about healthcare quickly

descend into alarmist rhetoric about whether we're headed towards an "American style" model

If you look at healthcare systems in G20 countries, it's clear the U.S.A. is an anomaly. As such, I think we should stop talking about it and find other yardsticks to measure ourselves. To take this notion even a step further, I think we should also look beyond the G20. I'll bet there are lots of good ideas in Chile and Thailand and South Africa and Portugal too.

Meanwhile, kudos to all those currently working hard to keep us healthy. I can't imagine how difficult it must be many days. Anyway, the rest of us really appreciate it, and maybe we should say that more often. Thanks.

> **Barry Devolin** Haliburton, Ontario

Devolin is the former MP for Haliburton-Kawartha-Lakes-Brock. He left politics in 2015 after serving in Parliament for 11 years.

There's Art in being a Haliburton booster

DARREN LUM

Editor

Mix in belief, commitment, pride and a heaping of love and you have a recipe for what makes up Art Ward. He may have died on Dec. 28 at the Columbia Forest long-term care facility in Waterloo according to his death notice, but his legacy of strength and passion for Haliburton and its people will live on forever.

Ward is survived by his wife, Joan, sister Nora Oldfield, daughters Kimberley and Lisa, son Christopher and 10 grandchildren. He was 84.

His son wrote in an email message that his father loved Haliburton and its peo-ple "with everything he had."

And he continued, "The one thing he

would have dearly wanted was for people to reflect on the adage 'Service Above Self' if only for the purpose of helping to

inspire others along the same path."
The Rotary Club's motto is "Service Above Self."

To have seen him, you would not have forgotten him.

He was a tall man with an imposing physique, often towering over his contemporaries, which was matched by a larger-than-life personality and a complementary booming voice when it came to singing. For all that size, he was a friendly man.

Fellow Rotarian Andrew Hodgson knew Art for close to 50 years being a friend of the family. He said Art was a serious and dedicated Rotarian.

"He was larger than life. He was a character, huge personality. He brought joy and excitement in every room," he said. "But I think in Haliburton he helped us. He's an entrepreneur and he created a huge resort, Wigamog Inn. He was part of the original Pinestone. He went on to own Country Rose and they had an antique store. But he was an entrepreneur and a business person and a leader in our community.

Hodgson was a child when he first met Art, having shared a regular taxi cab ride with daughter Kim to attend kindergarten held in the basement of the Baptist Church in Haliburton.

Hodgson said losing Art is a sad loss, but he left a legacy.

"We are fortunate that he decided to invest in our community. He brought so much to it. He took the lodging industry and put it on a different level. And he also helped to bring the Pinestone, which is a whole different level for us. So, I think we're just fortunate as a community to have lived here, raise his family here. Invest in the area, enjoy us. To be part of our community and he created so much work and wealth and employment and it's a real loss to our community."

That loss is felt because of how much the area gained from his efforts with his membership and leadership in local organizations and causes.

Ward earned recognition for his efforts and was recognized as Rotarian of the Year, Innkeeper of the Year and the Highlander of the Year. He served as a president of several local organizations, including the Rotary Club of Haliburton, the Lake Kashagawigamog Tourist Association and the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce. His other accolades included earning the Rotary honour, the Paul Harris Fellow twice, the Rotary Lifetime Achievement Award and the Canada 150 Volunteer Award. He was a regular on the grill with the beef on a bun stand offered at the Rotary Carnival held in Head Lake Park in the



Former Premier Bill Davis, from left, stands with Kim, Lisa and Christopher and Art Ward during the early 1970s at the Wigamog Inn in Haliburton. Ward was a proud supporter of the Progressive Conservative (PC) party and hosted many events such as this fundraiser for the PC Party. Submitted by Kimberly Ward

summer. Even if no one else was available to help he was ready to do it all, if

Before he called Haliburton home Arnprior was it.

Arthur Allen Ward was born in Arnprior on April 13, 1937.

He went to elementary and graduated from high school there where his father was principal.

The hotel administration graduate of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto played one season for the Toronto Argonauts. He met Joan Douglas at Ryerson. They married in 1960. The two came to Haliburton in 1967 and put roots down and bought the Wigamog Inn, which they owned and operated for 27 years. They raised their family here, which included Kim, Lisa and Christo-

Son, Christopher wrote in an email, describing his father.

He was a quiet leader who encouraged, if not demanded, critical, independent thinking at a young age. There was never a shred of doubt that dad was always there for us. Whenever we fell down – he was there to pick us up. When we were sick – he was the one who took us under his wing. When we needed a ride – he was it. Yet, despite this soft and agreeable demeanor, he and Joan also taught and fostered a fierce sense of independence within each of us. He instilled a strong work ethic and an even stronger sense of moral obligation to those people and causes that one holds dear. He was assertive when he had to be and laughably loquacious when not," he wrote.

His father's promise, he added, was something anyone could trust.

"I think a lot of dad's strength came from his knowledge that he was true to his word - to his causes - to himself. He lived life with an authenticity and confidence that is perhaps a little harder to find these days. It did seem to have a positive effect judging by the notes coming in from various sources over the past week," he wrote.

Daughter Kim remembers how she and her siblings were employed at the Wigamog.

In an email, she wrote her brother Chris led snowmobile tours through the "bush," while she waitressed in a uniform and her sister Lisa checked in guests from a desk she could barely see over. She remembers during one summer her father spent a month constructing a "three tier 1976 Olympic-themed float to honour Greek God Zeus" for the Rotary Carnival Parade, as an example of his competitive spirit.

Ward was a well-known Progressive Conservative supporter. He wasn't shy about that support.

There was a 10-year period when the Wigamog hosted an annual tennis tournament, which included the who's-who



Art Ward may not have been born or even raised in Haliburton, but it was home to him. Photo submitted by Christopher Ward

belonging to what Kim wrote were in the "big Blue Machine" of the Progressive Conservative Party. There are photos of Art with the likes of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Ontario Premier Bill Davis.

Fellow Rotarian and another friend Don Popple said Art was a person that could breathe life into any room he was

in.

"The odd time you can have a boring the singmeeting. Well, you just turn [the] singsong over to Art and they would all be hooting and hollering, singing away there. And he loved to sing," he said.

Art had a booming voice and his rendition of 'For he's a jolly good fellow' is never forgotten by those that heard it.

Popple said his friend loved to see people smile.

"Yeah, he just liked seeing people having fun," he said.

His constant promotion of this area not only came from love, but from pride of the area as well, Popple said.

'He wanted it to be successful. And of course there was a reason he wanted it to be successful because he had a tourism business, but on the other hand it was bigger than that. You know what I mean? He was like everybody else in the tourism industry. Sometimes he had a tough year, but he never gave up," he

In recognition of Art's commitment to tourism, the Rotary Club of Haliburton has started the Art Ward memorial scholarship for graduates of the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.
Formally titled, A Hospitality Tourism

Scholarship – Art Ward Memorial presented by the Rotary Club of Haliburton. It will be worth \$250 and be available for 2021-2021 graduates. Anyone interested in contributing to this scholarship can send cheques to the Rotary Club of Haliburton, P.O. Box 832, Haliburton, Ontario, K0M 1S0. Indicate on the cheque that the donation go to the Art Ward scholarship.

From the death notice that appeared in the Haliburton Echo's Jan. 4 issue, which was written by Christopher, it reads, "His singing will be missed but the echoes will last forever. Thank you for everything Dad, we love and miss you

Municipal and county services affected by return to Step Two

STEVE GALEA

Special to the Echo

The provincial government's return to Modified Step Two COVID-19 restrictions has caused Haliburton County and its four municipalities to modify some services and facilities.

Here's a brief rundown.

Highlands East

As of Jan. 4, the Municipality of Highlands East temporarily closed its offices and recreational facilities (the arena, community centres and the curling club). Landfills will remain open, but individuals must wear masks when outside of their vehicles. These measures will be reevaluated on Jan. 25.

Contact the municipal office in Wilberforce or the building department in Gooderham (which are both closed at this time) by phone or email. Visit www.highlandseast.ca/ for information.

Algonquin Highlands On Jan. 5, the township's previ-

ous decision to re-open community centres in Stanhope and Oxtongue Lake was postponed until further

Stanhope Garden and the Dorset Ice Palace are open. The change room at the Dorset Ice Palace is closed, however. Provincial and Haliburton, Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPRDHU) COVID-19 restrictions must be followed when using these facilities.

These can be found at www. hkpr.on.ca/. Failure to follow those restrictions and/or complaints of non-compliance could result in the closure of those rinks.

The building department will continue to conduct inspections. Anyone in the building during inspection must wear a mask and practice social distancing. Those not doing so must vacate the building until township building officials have completed the inspection or must relocate to another area of the building that is not being inspected, where contact with the inspectors is

Inability or refusal may result in cancellation or rescheduling of the inspection.

All Algonquin Highlands municipal facilities, including the administrative office on North Shore Road, the trails office and the airport terminal building remain closed to the public until further notice.

If absolutely necessary, meetings can be scheduled with township staff, by appointment. COVID-19 safety protocols including mask wearing and physical distancing must be adhered to, however. Contact by telephone at 705-489-2379 or email at info@algonquinhighlands. ca is preferred at this time. Staff contact information can be found at www.algonquinhighlands.ca.

Minden Hills

On Jan. 5, the Municipality of Minden Hills closed the Minden Hills Community Centre/Recreation Complex/S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena to the public in accordance with the provincial order. Also, all programs and services were suspended at this time

Scheduled in-person meetings with staff from all municipal departments will be on an as needed basis and by appointment only

Mass Immunization Clinics at the Minden Hills Community Centre will continue as scheduled. For a list of dates and how to book an appointment, please visit the HKPR website at: https://www.hkpr.on.ca/2021/09/01/vaccination-clin-

For questions about rentals or programming, call the community centre at 705- 286-1260 x 552. For more information, visit the Township of Minden Hills website at www.mindenhills.ca.

Dysart et al

The municipal office is closed to the public until further notice. Call or email staff to schedule appointments for business that cannot be conducted over the phone or zoom.

The Haliburton Welcome Centre will also be closed. Exterior washrooms will remain open when staff are present.

As of Jan. 5, the A.J. LaRue arena, the West Guilford Community Centre, the Harcourt Community Centre and Haliburton Highlands Museum are closed until further

Haliburton County

The County of Haliburton administrative building at 11 Newcastle Street in Minden is closed to the public until further notice. Appointments can be made with county staff during regular business hours by calling 705-286-1333 or 1-844-

The committee as a whole meeting scheduled on Jan. 12 will be held virtually and broadcast on the County's YouTube page.

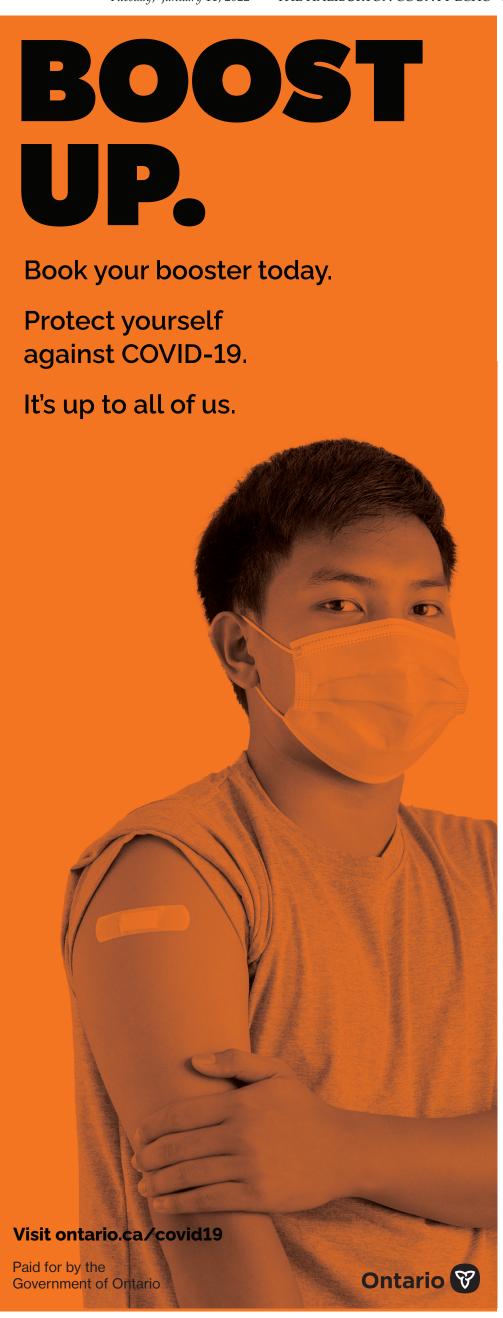
The Kawartha Lakes Human Services office in Haliburton is closed to the public until further notice.

Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL)

As of Jan. 4, the Dysart, Minden and Wilberforce branches of the HCPL will be open with in-person capacity limits at 50 per cent of nor-

The Cardiff, Gooderham and Highland Grove branches will revert to curbside pick-up only. Holds can be requested online, print-job requests by email. Masks are required when visiting the library or during curbside pick up. WiFi is also available outside of branches.





World is better with our Enviro-Heroes

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is pleased to announce the winners of the 2021 Enviro-Hero Awards.

Each year HHLT seeks nominations for individuals and/or a group who, through their own initiative and dedication, have contributed to the protection and sustainability of the lands, waters, and species that live there.

This year, in the category of education, we have selected Terry Moore. Moore has been at the forefront of many environmental issues facing Haliburton County and is dedicated to protecting our environment and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. He was key in the creation of the radio show Planet Haliburton on Canoe FM and has interviewed more than 94 environmental and climate experts over the years. He is a committee member of Seniors for Climate Action Now! and is involved in promoting the Shoreline Preservation bylaw. Terry and his wife Shirley started the Haliburton Green Burial Society in memory of their son Kyle.

In the category of stewardship and education we have chosen to give the award to the Haliburton County Master Gardeners. The master gardeners work within our community to provide advice and education to individuals and other community groups on a variety of gardening land stewardship topics. Their current focus is on native plants and naturaliza-tion of properties, including shorelines. Their website www.haliburtonmastergardener.ca is currently being updated to include information on how you can plant and grow your own fruits and vegetables and much more information on a variety of gardening topics.
The HHLT Enviro-Hero Youth Award

goes to Grade 8 student Blake Parkinson. Blake cottages with his grandparents on

Lake Kashagawigamog each summer. His goal is to educate others about the environment through social media and other environmentally focused activities and projects. He has achieved a lot in his young life. Blake started a

campaign at his school to raise money to help beluga whales, organized a garbage clean-up initiative, a beach clean-up, and a "Swim for the Sea" at the cottage where people swam across the lake to raise money for WWF. Blake started his own Planet Protectors page on Instagram and during the pandemic created his own weekly live episodes. The series started with five YouTube sessions called Blake on the Lake which can be viewed at https://youtube.com/channel/UCcca9I-

MYeG6nl-Q-5sp8qoA HHLT is pleased to honour these wonderful stewards, educators and advocates with a 2021 HHLT Enviro-Hero Award. An in-person award ceremony will take place at a later date.

Submitted



NOMINATIONS WANTED!

Do you know someone between the ages of 6 - 17 who is making a difference within their community? Nominate them for an **Ontario Junior Citizen Award today!**

DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 11, 2022

Nomination forms are available from this newspaper, and at www.ocna.org/juniorcitizen. Email jr.citizen@ocna.org for more information.





Skating on a dream

Skaters make their way from Ingoldsby across a frozen Kashagawigamog Lake during an afternoon of outdoor fun in Haliburton County. The ice conditions were ideal for skating: devoid of snow, smooth and hard./ **DARREN LUM Staff**



Haliburton Highlands Secondary School alumni Melissa Brinkos, from left, and Charlotte Paton slide on their bellies across a frozen Kashagawigamog Lake during an afternoon of outdoor fun in Haliburton County. The ice conditions were ideal for skating: devoid of snow, smooth and hard./DARREN LUM Staff

Thankful for support, help with what you can

DARREN LUM

Editor

The holidays will never be the same for Marylou Clark

Losing her husband, Robert Clark, 64, in a tragic vehicular collision on Highway 35 north of Lindsay on Dec. 14 left her without her best friend. It is still under investigation by the OPP.

She said New Year's Eve has not been a time for celebration ever since her father died a minute into New Year's Day in 1996. And moving forward, Christmas won't be like it used to be.

"And then, Rob, just before Christmas. It's like I don't think Christmas is ever going be the same either," she

It wasn't very long ago she and Rob were excited about plans to celebrate their upcoming 10th wedding anniversary this March. They wanted to go out east for a fishing trip. It was going to be an opportunity to share in a passion they both have.

"We love to fish. For our honeymoon, we spent it at Lake Nipissing. We spent a whole week up there. Rented a little cabin down by the lake and it was just amazing. Just absolutely amazing. I turned into a pike girl pretty quick. I love to catch pike," she said.

The couple spent a lot of time together doing things they loved, whether it was in the dirt gardening, shooting at the gun range or hunting deer.

'He wasn't just my husband. He was my best friend,"

Marylou has joined a widow's support group and she has appreciated being contacted by victim's services about her welfare.

The Old Donald Road resident has been taken aback by the generosity exhibited by people, who have reached out to her with visits, phone calls, and donations of food and funds, but also by the acts of kindness. This has included sand for her driveway and offers to help with the maintenance of the property from safely cutting a tree down to helping teach her how to operate the tractor. She's thankful to everybody, particularly her neighbours in Haliburton.

"I always knew that Old Donald Road was like its own little community, but I mean the support and the people that have come offering, you know, a shoulder to cry on, you know, bring food. People have brought food and they've just been fantastic," she said.

Her daughter Jenn Abbott, who has been running the

area's Make Dreams Come True initiative, which takes donated formal clothing and helps outfit graduates, has always been impressed by the community.

"Our community may be small, but we're mighty. When there's a tragedy in our small community people

do whatever they can to help," she said.

Abbott started a GoFundMe for her mother (www. gofundme.com/f/help-marylou-after-tragic-death-ofhusband). With a goal of \$5,000, the donations have been slow in the first several days of asking for money on the online platform, but understandable given the time of year Abbott said. She is thankful for those who have donated. The money, she said, will help with immediate concerns, mainly paying bills such as mortgage payments, cost of groceries and phone service. The money is needed because her mother's ability to earn money through her cleaning business has been challenged by her recently diagnosed chronic illnesses

Financial donations from the public have already been helpful for Marylou. It helped her repay what was an overpay by her husband's OMERS (Ontario Municipal Employees' Retirement System) pension. She is now eligible for monthly payments. Up until a little more than five years ago, Rob had worked in maintenance and custodial services for Trillium Lakelands District School Board since the mid-1980s.

The self-employed widow for close to 20 years not only received a positive Lupus test, but she was later diagnosed with fibromyalgia this

Her ailments limit her to close to three hours before the pain in her feet, knees, hips, lower back, neck and is too much. She is experiencing deteriorating discs.

"They have me on some new medication right now that's helping, but with fibromyalgia when you get stressed, very stressed the pain is so severe and nothing seems to take it away," she said.

Some of her medication and treatments such as massages and chiropractic care is covered by her husband's benefits, but that only amounts to \$125 a month.



Marylou Clark of Haliburton is working through the grief of losing her husband, Rob Clark (pictured). A GoFundMe has been started by her daughter Jenn Abbott (www.gofundme.com/f/help-marylou-after-tragic-death-of-husband) to help with immediate bills. Added to the loss for Marylou are the challenges of her chronic health issues, diminishing her abilities to work. A trust account in her name (Marylou Carol Clark) has also been started at the TD Bank in Minden. /Submitted by

"It's probably about maybe half of what I use," she

Abbott said she recognizes this is a difficult time to ask

for money, but anything will help her mother.

"We're hopeful, but at the end of the day a lot of people in the community and around the world are struggling, right? COVID, right after Christmas. You know what I mean? So, if we can get a little bit that helps her pay her mortgage or helps pay some bills we're grateful for that ... it's a very trying time for everybody and we

understand that," she said.

She said the GoFundme also generates interest through social media and there is a track record of success related to large sums of money being generated for people Abbott knows. It was also started for people who felt more comfortable donating through GoFundMe than the trust fund set up at the Toronto Dominion Bank in Minden by her mother's friends Rita McCarthy and Kelly

Hatton said the public can help with depositing

directly into the trust fund in her friend's name (Marylou Carol Clark) at the Minden branch, e-transfer or direct deposit. She started the trust fund account at the bank to ensure all the money donated went to her friend instead of another party.

Rob's loss is huge, as he was Marylou's caregiver, which included transportation to regular treatments, since the recent diagnoses, Hatton adds.

"We're all doing our best to help," she said.

It's clear moving forward will be painful for Marylou. It's a difficult future without Rob. They were together for close to 13 years. She adds when they first met each other there was a familiarity.

"It was like we knew each other for a billion years. Yeah, we're like two peas in a pod. It was like finishing each other's sentences and just goofing around," she

She takes solace in the scenario of the tragedy.

"If it had to happen, I'm glad it happened quickly and he wasn't in pain," she said.

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Haliburton County Huskies forward Lucas Stevenson prepares to hit Toronto Jr Canadiens forward Tyler Fukakusa along the boards during one of the last Ontario Junior Hockey League games before the season was suspended for three weeks because of the province's pandemicrelated decision.

/ALEX GALLACHER Special to the Echo



Huskies find the positives with three week postponement

ALEX GALLACHER

Special to the Echo

The Haliburton County Huskies, along with the rest of the OJHL (Ontario Junior Hockey League), have enacted a three week pause to the season. The announcement comes fresh off of Ontario Premier Doug Ford announcing that the province would be moving to a modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen plan.

Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen plan.

The plan temporarily closed things like indoor dining and gyms, but also forced many other minor sports leagues to enact a three week pause on their seasons as well.

As outlined in the government's release, only professional and "elite amateur" sports are allowed to operate with no fan attendance. The NHL's Toronto Maple Leafs took on the Edmonton Oilers last Wednesday in front of an eerily empty Scotiabank Arena, meanwhile the Ontario Hockey League is the only minor hockey league allowed to operate in Ontario under the government's criteria

Both the OJHL, the league that the Huskies are a part of, and the Ontario University Athletic (OUA) and Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) teams across the province were notably excluded from the list of elite amateur leagues.

Before the most recent game played by the Huskies, a 2-1 loss to the Toronto Jr Canadiens, the team was running a six game winning streak and was scheduled to take on the Mississauga Chargers on Jan. 7. However, that game and the rest of January was postponed due to these new guidelines with the league announcing that they, alongside the OUA and OCAA, will be lobbying to get their leagues classified as "elite".

get their leagues classified as "elite".

"The OJHL is committed to completing a full OJHL regular season and playoff schedule for the 2021-2022 season and we have put together various operational scenarios to allow us to do so," Marty Savoy, Commissioner of the OJHL said. "Although the Provincial Government has not yet declared Junior A hockey within Ontario as Elite level of sport, the OJHL is lobbying our various governing bodies in an effort to have this level of the sport included within this classification."

For the Huskies players, with the exception of a few who decided to temporarily play in other leagues, most of them will be staying with their billet families in Minden and Haliburton County. This was primarily done

Haliburton County Huskies defenceman Jack Staniland leads a rush against the Toronto Jr Canadiens on Jan. 2 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. /ALEX GALLACHER Special to the *Echo*

to decrease travel and keep the players safe during the surging number COVID cases throughout the province.

A large portion of the member teams in OJHL elect to have their players live at home, as most of the players live close to the GTA in some capacity. The Huskies are one of the few teams to have most of their players billet, and it has turned out to be a blessing in disguise for the Huskies. Not only has it helped increase team morale and bring the players closer together, but it's been a key factor in keeping everyone safe while they wait for this storm to blow over.

"Most of the guys decided to stay in the area," Huskies forward Nick Athanasaskos said. "I think for the team as a whole decided that it would be safer up here in the county from COVID."

Due to the lower population of Haliburton County compared to some other markets in the GTA, it gives the team some flexibility and allows the billeted players to keep themselves safe in the county. Since only small indoor and outdoor groups are allowed, the team plans on holding some COVID safe training sessions to keep the squad ready for the swiftly approaching restart.

the squad ready for the swiftly approaching restart.

"The guys are bummed for sure," Huskies defenceman and Haliburton-raised Ryan Hall said. "Everyone is trying to keep positive and keep their heads held high for when the season does resume."

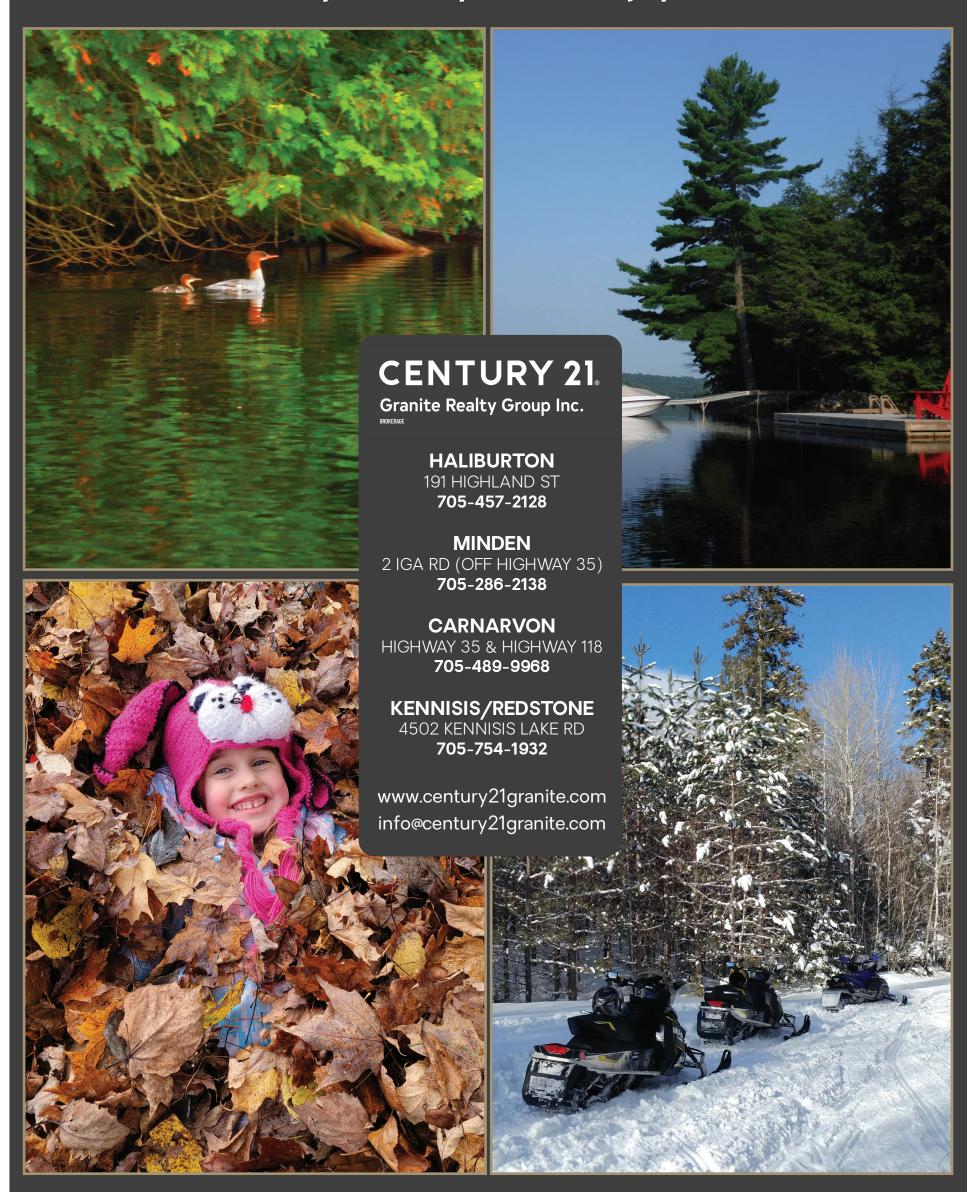
In only their first season being located in the Municipality of Minden Hills, the Huskies have enjoyed immense fan support very quickly. Sitting fourth in league attendance with an average of 301 fans per game, the Huskies' success came from the community embracing and rallying around the team. For majority owner and Haliburton Huskies alumnus Paul Wilson, the team remains committed to finding a solution to ensure the Huskies can finish the season.

"Most of the team will be staying in the area, so we are organizing workouts in small groups to keep the guys fit," Wilson said. "We are anticipating that the players will be back on the ice after this shutdown, but the government is hopefully soon going to come up with some changes to allow us to play again. Even if we have to play with no fans, it's important to all of us that we get the season in."

As the world works to combat the highly contagious Omicron variant, for these young players in the junior leagues across the country have already sacrificed almost a season and a half to the pandemic. While safety still remains the number one factor, most of the players are ever so eager to back on the ice.

With the Step Two measures set to expire on Jan. 26, pending any new changes in public health the team could possibly be back on home ice as early as Jan. 28 against the North York Rangers at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

Haliburton County where you can enjoy all four seasons



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Former Red Hawk joins Bobcats' lacrosse program

The Gill family prepares as son Jaxon takes next step in lacrosse journey

DARREN LUM

Editor

Lacrosse: Canada's national summer sport and played for thousands of years by the Indigenous peoples of North America.

While the sport has changed a lot since its inception, in 2022 two major lacrosse leagues exist in North America. The professional box lacrosse league for North America, the NLL (National Lacrosse League), and the professional field lacrosse for America, the PLL (Premier Lacrosse League). Both represent two sides of a distinct and unique sport. One athlete who looks to make a name for himself is Archie Stouffer Elementary School graduate and former Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Red Hawk, Jaxon Gill.

Originally from Little Britain, Jaxon started out playing AAA hockey for the Mariposa Lightning. Rather than staying home and playing video games all summer, his mom Jennifer looked for something active that he could do after the hockey season was over. Taking up lacrosse at the age of seven, Jaxon found a love for it very quickly.

"We found a great lacrosse program

with the Kawartha Lakes Fury," his mother, Jennifer Gill said. "He played one season of box lacrosse, then we transitioned to field lacrosse and he was hooked ever since. We still continued in the hockey journey and he won an OMHA title. When we moved up to Hal-



Former Red Hawks athlete Jaxon Gill, in white, carries the ball in a lacrosse game for the Virginia-based Christchurch School in the U.S. Gill has used his success in Virginia to move another step to playing lacross professionally. He will be suiting up for Quinnipiac University in Connecticut for the 2022-23 season. Photo submitted

iburton County in 2016 he was playing for a rep team in Aurora. This team was made up of some of the province's most elite players. His dream was to play division one lacrosse and he knew from a

very young age that he wanted to do it."
In 2019, his family looked down south for some programs to help Jaxon achieve his dream. Touring around 20 or so schools, the Gill family decided to send Jaxon to the Christchurch School in Christchurch, Virginia.

ing as well. He has a lot of contacts in colleges and gave me a lot of points on what to look for in a school." Kelusky, who is from Peterborough, was a five-time all-star and finished with 823 points (383 goals and 440 assists) after a 14-year career in the NLL. He was a No. 1 overall pick in the 2000 NLL Entry Draft and went on to take Rookie of the Year

honours in 2001. While Jaxon hasn't decided whether or not he will play in the NLL and PLL, he is holding back on making that decision as although he has won many awards and many championships, he prefers to share the limelight with his teammates as opposed to keeping it all for himself. While he would love the chance to play at the highest level, it's clear that even if he chooses not to play he will still be involved in the lacrosse world. Whether it be coaching, statistics, reporting or even a team leadership role, the game of lacrosse is one that is near and dear to the heart of

his love for a program and a sport at the

With the NLL having five teams in Can-

ada and majority of the players hailing from Canada, the U.S.A. or the Iroquois

Nation, Jaxon was able to train and learn

Elite Lacrosse travel team out in Aurora and he really taught me a lot. He is the

one that got me interested in college

lacrosse, he helped out a lot with recruit-

from some of the best in the industry. "Working with Tracy Kelusky was awesome," Jaxon said. "I played for his

"I wanna stay connected to lacrosse somehow," Jaxon continued. "I'm not sure if I want to play pro lacrosse, but I do know I want to be connected, whether it be coaching or helping high schools recruit players. Just something within the

However, there is one more thing that shares a spot in his heart: Haliburton County. Despite the fact he only moved to the area in 2016, he still embraced the county as his own.

"We came up here for a restart," Jennifer concluded. "He was in Grade 8 when we moved here and I think he has made lifelong friends here. It was a hard decision for him to leave for the States but he has maintained the friendships here. He loves the small town atmosphere and was able to take that to university."

Crossword brought to you by

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"Out Standing In Our Field"



PROFESSI^ONALS



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A school with a rich sports program, it has had some notable alumni in both politics and sports. After seeing much success at Christchurch, Jaxon achieved his dream and committed to Quinnipiac University in Connecticut for the 2022-23 season. Playing in the Metro Atlantic Conference, Jaxon will be facing some stiff competition from some iconic schools: Siena College, Canisius College and Marist College. They are among some of the heavy hitters in the division, but he will also get a chance to play against schools like Yale University, Sacred Heart and Harvard.

"On Sept. 1 of my Grade 11 year at Christchurch that [was] when recruiting starts for D1 teams," Jaxon said. "I knew I wanted to be on a D1 team as it was a goal [I had] since I was 10. One of my main things was the school has to have the program that I wanted. I didn't want to go to a massive school because I wanted to focus more on my academics, and Quinnipiac had everything I wanted."

Jaxon will also be able to focus a lot on his education where he will major in communications and take a minor in journalism. Looking to set himself up for a great career should he choose to pursue one after his lacrosse journey ends, Jaxon gets the added luxury of being able to combine

CLUES ACROSS

1. One point east of due south

4. City in Maine

10. Inquire too closely

11. Make dirty

12. Small Greek island

14. Bitterly regret 15. Millisecond

16. __ the ante

18. Without value

22. Eurasian ryegrass

23. Authentic

24. Having a mournful qual-

26. Not out

27. Salvador __, Spanish CLUES DOWN

28. Cargo (abbr.)

30. This (Spanish)

31. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.) 34. Slang for trucks with

36. Helps you hear

37. Steer a boat

39. British School

40. Genus of olive 41. Computer term (abbr.) 42. Horse gear

48. Give off

50. A type of salt 51. Exposing human vice or

folly to ridicule

52. One who watches birds

53. Sailboat 54. A major division of geo-

logical time

55. Sodium

56. American state 58. Soak in water

59. Thin decorative covering

of fine wood 60. Affirmative

1. One of the four seasons

2. Its sultan is famous

3. A lens for correcting defective vision in one eye

4. College degree

5. Soldiers need it

6. Japanese car manufacturer

7. A way to address

8. Obstruct

9. Atomic number 45

12. Ill-mannered

13. Opaque gem

17. Indicates before

20. Populous Argentine city 21. More cunning

25. Rich dessert

29. Payment (abbr.)

31. Footwear

32. Famed Alabama city

33. Sheep's cry

35. Arrogance

38. Clergical vestment

41. Serving no practical pur-

43. An evening party

44. Print errors

45. Not good

46. Egyptian Sun god 47. Industrial German city

49. Scottish island

56. Early multimedia 57. Atomic number 18

Answers on page 16



Musician Rovvan talks creativity in lockdown

NICK BERNARD

Staff Reporter

Rowan Tofflemire just wants to make a living doing

For someone as powerfully creative as him, that means producing a mountain of music during the pandemic. In a time where many of us found our lives stalled and redirected, Tofflemire, who goes by Rovvan in the studio and on stage, managed to release 11 tracks and two music videos, with an EP – more than a single, but not quite a

full album – still on the way.

"I don't like to not do anything for a while," he told the Echo from his home in Toronto. "Like, I feel unproductive ... if I haven't created anything in the last week. So, like I need to be doing something at least every week. Whether I'm on set or making a song, I need to do something artistically or I'm just not going to make it."
Rovvan was born in B.C. and moved to Haliburton at a

young age. When he was a teenager, he was already winning awards for filmmaking, including first place at the 2017 South Georgian Bay Film Festival for his Haliburton-based horror film Unaware.

At the same time, the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School graduate's work making music was starting

"When I was like 16, 17, me and my friends would just get together, we'd freestyle, just rap over beats," he said. "And then I went to college and I was still doing the rapping thing. And I was meeting new people, and I was given the opportunity to meet a bunch of other artists. So, I played shows with them in 2019 and they were great turnouts ... I might have not even continued making music if I didn't meet these people."

Rovvan's collaborations include tracks with Toronto artists Kano, XO Jumpo, and MMXVII.

While his early material leans strongly into traditional rap, his sound has started to eschew genre, borrowing sounds from across the pop, rock, and independent spec-

"I've always listened to that kind of music growing up

... Like [indie rock], indie pop is one of my favourite genres to listen to," he said. "I like music that has emotion in it.'

"I'm like obsessed with lyrics. One thing for me is that I just know lyrics to every song as soon as I hear it, and rap has those kinds of lyrics in it where you listen to it and you're like, you've got to think about what he's saying, like that's a cool simile."

Rovvan's upcoming EP is called Closer To The Knife, which he says taps into a lot of the feelings he went through, especially with the backdrop of the pandemic.

"I really like breakup songs ... I like the emotion behind them, I feel like you can feel them more," he says of some of the six tracks that will appear on the EP. "I like that music can make me feel that way, especially if I can write it and base it on my life."

One of the songs tells the story of an ill-fated romance set to a looming apocalypse, in a track called The End of

"But it's how I was feeling during the pandemic and like, what is the world coming to? Like, it's so weird, and I wanted to write a story based around that, because I feel like everybody feels that way right now ... you don't know how the future's going to go, you know?"

As far as Rovvan's future goes, in the short term, he'd like to get back to playing live shows again.

"It's just seeing people sing along ... I feel like now I have enough music that is catchier," he said. "People tell me they hear my songs and they're like, 'oh I heard your song, it's been stuck in my head for a week,' I'm like that's perfect, when you come to my show and sing it with me'!"

He's also in it for the long haul, dividing his passions between music and his work in film.

"I know a lot of my favourite artists didn't get, really, a lot of traction until they were much older than I am, so I don't feel like it's a rush for me to get famous ... but if I do, then that's cool."

Rovvan hopes to perform again live sometime in 2022. In the meantime, his Closer To The Knife EP comes out on Ian. 14.

You can stream Rovvan's available discography on

Rovvan, from left, performs in Toronto with rapper XO Jumpo. The pair collaborated on a track called "West Ends" in 2021. Rovvan's birth name is Rowan Tofflemire, is a Haliburton Highlands Secondary School alumnus.



Notice of Proposed Sale of Municipal Land

Take notice that the Corporation of the Municipality of Dysart et al intends to pass a by-law to dispose of certain lands that have been declared as surplus described in Schedule "A"

And further notice that the purpose and effect of the proposed by-law is to authorize the sale of the said lands to Nathan

And further notice that any person wishing to comment on the proposed sale should submit such comments in writing to the Clerk at the address set out below on or before the 18th day of

And further take notice that the proposed by-law will come before the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Dysart et al, at its regular meeting on the 25th day of January,

Dated at Haliburton and published this 3rd day of January,

Mallory Bishop, Clerk mbishop@dysartetal.ca

Schedule "A"

Part Lot 11, Concession 9, being Part 15, Plan 19R-4878 and Part Lot 12, Concession 9, being a portion of Part 9, Plan 19R-2953, in the geographic township of Dysart.



Notice (Applicant - Moir)

In the matter of the Municipal Act and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of the Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Koshlong Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass a virtual meeting on Tuesday, the 8th day of February, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

> Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 9, Concession 15, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 2 and 3 on Plan of Survey 19R-10575 made by Van Harten Surveying Inc., completed May 22, 2021.

The Plan of Survey 19R-10575 is available to you for inspection by making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or email the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 11th day of January, 2022.

> Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk Box 295, 2249 Loop Road WILBERFORCE, ON

rrogers@highlandseast.ca 705-448-2981

Wildlife in your backyard



Ingoldsby resident Jill Moulton spotted and captured a photo of an owl on a branch in a tree in her backyard during the first full week of January. /Submitted by Jill Moulton



A peregrine falcon feeds above the intersection of Highland Street and York Street on Wednesday, Jan. 5 in Haliburton. The falcon is reknowned as the fastest animal in the world, being able to reach speeds of 390 kilometres per hour in a dive. Its status is "special concern" under the Species at Risk in Ontario List. The status is related to "habitat loss and destruction, disturbance and persecution by people, and environmental contaminants." /DARREN LUM Staff

Gift of love delivered

community news west guilford

Eleanor Cooper 754-2278

Christmas was quieter this year, but went delightfully with sister Kathleen here for the big day and daughter Beth, who was home from St. Catharines. Gifts that were brought to my doorstep helped to make it special. Neighbours, the Mahaffys and Bartleys have been kind enough to bring those extra touches that mean so much. The wonderful phone camera of Beth's let me see George and Shireen and Alan and Sophy. It was the next best thing to having them here, and good to hear their voices as well. Although it was sad to say farewell to Father Ken McClure, who was moving from the area, it was good to be at his last service at St. George's on Dec. 26. We actu-

ally got to sing Good King Wenceslas on St. Stephens's Day! Now we'll have the satisfaction of Reverend David Barker's sermons and his services until a new priest is

Red flowers at this dark season are such a point of cheer. A gift of amaryllis and of small poinsettia are a spark of interest as they continue to grow. Together with candlelight the rooms are cheerier than they'd be without these spots of beauty.

In the absence of June I've attended to old photos, letters, cards and notes too long neglected, but on my own with no one to talk with or to share meals with, I am looking for minutes on end and gazing for a while down memory lane. The result is a new area of cleared space which will no doubt be claimed by new photos, mementos, etc.! In time it will save someone else the trouble of looking after such items.

Such are my ramblings to date. Happy New Year eve-

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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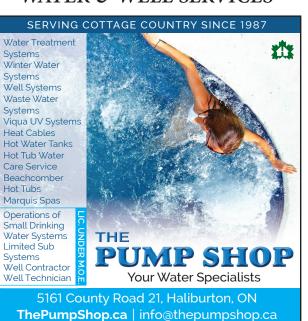
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Virtual AGM **Annual General Meeting** Tuesday January 18, 2022

Meeting begins at 7 pm on Zoom

All are welcome to attend.

Please pre-register using this link: https://www.eventbrite.ca/ e/annual-general-meetingtickets-233993529947



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- Computer skills in record keeping and communication with a knowledge of windows, ms word; excel and ms outlook
- A valid driver's licence

This is a permanent/part-time position.

Interviews will be held during the week of January 17, 2022. Please send a detailed resume to: mindenfoodbankpthornett@gmail.com or mail to: Minden Community Food Centre P.O. Box 893, Minden, Ont. KOM 2KO



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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Haliburton Highlands Health Services has a need for Full-Time, Part-Time (Permanent and/or Temporary) and Casual staff for the noted classifications below.

RN's and RPN's are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. The Registered Nurse earns \$33.90 /hr - \$48.53/hr and is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Two years of acute care practice and one year or more of previous emergency department or specialty department experience is preferred. Temporary accommodation will be provided.

Registered Practical Nurses earn \$30.58 - \$31.75/hr and provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a client's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to fully communicate in English.

Personnel Support Workers earns \$22.25 - \$24.85/hr and provide resident care in relation to activities of daily living. PSW's help residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. Successful completion of Personal Support Worker program which meets one of the following:

The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, The standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association; and

Must be a minimum of 600 hours in duration, counting both class time and practical experience.

Interested: Submit your application and resume to:

Human Resources Haliburton Highlands Health Services Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca Fax: 705-457-4609

600 FUNERAL SERVICES







Classifieds Haliburton Echo

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650 OBITUARIES





Joan Brodhagen (nee Burton)

Peacefully at Haliburton Highlands Health Services on Sunday evening, January 2, 2022 in her 71st year.

Dearly missed by her loving husband Michael. Adoring mother to Michael and Cindy (Arden). Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Ashley, Krista, Megan, Shannon, Nathan, Ethan and Michael. Dear sister of Doris, Ross and Fay. Predeceased by her sister Helen. Also lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Joan worked in the Airline Industry for many years. She enjoyed riding the motorcycle and camping across Canada. Most of all, she loved time spent with her family.

Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton 4Cs - Food Bank would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



In Loving Memory of

KNAP, M. Isabel (Park)

went home peacefully to be with our Lord and Saviour on January 2nd 2022.

Predeceased by her husband of many years, Victor Knap, brothers Andrew, Norman and Ronald. Survived by Douglas in Scotland.

Isabel was born in Scotland in 1934. After marrying Victor, they lived in Hamilton, Ontario. They later moved and lived most of their lives in Haliburton, Ontario.

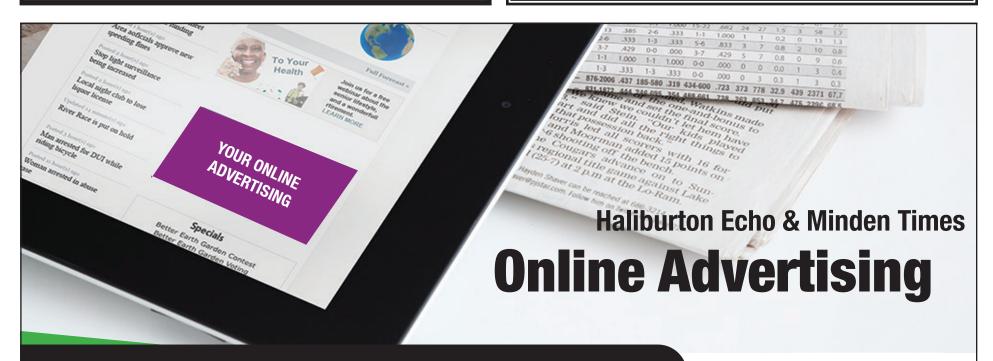
Isabel loved the outdoors, animals (especially dogs) and being around people. She loved baking (fantastic shortbread), cooking and gardening. She opened her home up to many over the years.

Isabel will be sadly missed by many nieces, nephews and friends.

Special thank you to the staff at Niagara Long Term Care Home for all of the kindness shown to Isabel over the last 3 years. Especially just prior to

Cremation has occurred as per Isabel's wishes. A small family gathering and burial will happen at a later date.

Until we meet again Aunt Isabel.



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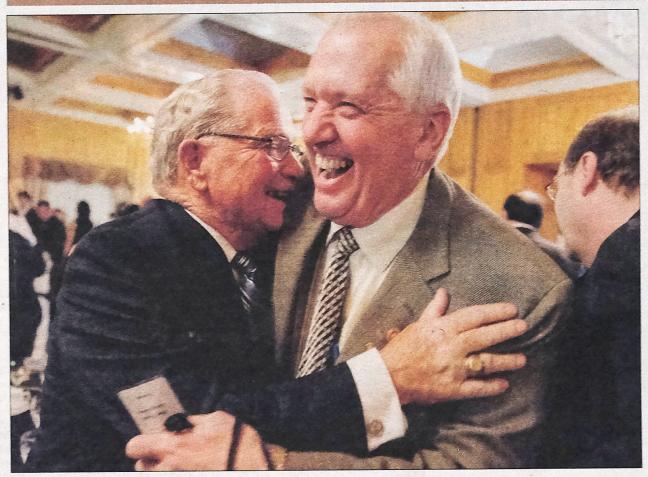
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Tuesday, January 18, 2011



Left, Highlander of the Year winner Scotty Morrison gets a hug from Highlander of the Year nominee Don Popple at the fifth annual Business and Community Achievement Awards Gala held at the Pinestone Resort on Saturday, Jan. 15.

See more photos on page 3 and online at www.haliburtonecho.ca.

Darren Lum Echo staff

Scotty Morrison Highlander of the Year

Darren Lum Staff reporter

There was nothing but applause and laughter at the fifth annual Business and Community Achievement Awards Gala held at the Pinestone Resort in Haliburton on Saturday, Jan. 15.

Thanks to the wit, at times biting, but sprinkled with innocence of the event's master of ceremonies Mike Jaycock the audience was often simultaneously laughing and cringing.

Despite Jaycock's repertoire of verbal skills, he could not bring the audience to its feet like this year's Highlander of the Year winner.

When Scotty Morrison was announced as this year's recipient of the award, he received a standing ovation at the gala organized by the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

He was thankful and spoke slowly.

"When my dear wife was coming down with Alzheimer's and very good friends in Toronto said to me, 'Scotty, Joan is coming down with Alzhe-imer's and you're staying in Haliburton?' I said, 'I

wouldn't think of going anywhere, but Haliburton and I believe that from the bottom of my heart ... if I'm required to be an ambassador for Haliburton then I'll give it everything I've got," he said of his wife who died two years ago. "Thank you again very, very much. This is something I will treasure

The next day, Morrison explained his affection for Haliburton County stems from how much the area meant to his wife, as she was cared for so well by the people he refers to as "angels on earth" at

see TRUE page 3





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